

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

5 Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim [[1]] 7 wherein the securing means further comprises means for permanently securing the second end portion of a first one of the plurality of support rods relative to an external surface.

10 Claim 4 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 3 wherein the securing means further comprises means for resisting relative slipping of the second end portion of a different second one of the plurality of support rods relative to an external surface.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

15 Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The mounting bracket of claim 6 wherein the lengthwise cylindrical cavity further comprises a~~ A mounting bracket, comprising:

a plurality of support rods each being limited to only a solitary nonextensible member of single-piece construction having a substantially uniformly solid cross-section extended substantially continuously between opposing first and second end portions and being substantially independently permanently bendable in three dimensions along substantially an entire length thereof between the first and second end portions;

20

means for clamping the first end portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed arrangement, wherein the means for clamping further comprises means for clamping each of the first end portions in a lengthwise cylindrical cavity formed between a pair of lengthwise part cylindrical relief grooves formed between [[the]] an external collar and an internal wedge; and

means for securing the second end portions of the plurality of support rods relative to an external surface.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim [[1]] 7, further comprising a flexible sheath substantially covering each of the plurality of permanently bendable support rods.

5 Claim 9 (currently amended): A vehicle mounting bracket, comprising:

a plurality of unitary support rods each being limited to only a solitary nonextensible metal rod of single-piece construction having a substantially uniformly solid cross-section extended substantially continuously between a first end portion structured for being clamped, and an opposite second end portion structured for being secured relative to an external surface, each of
10 the rods being independently permanently bendable in three orthogonal dimensions along substantially an entire length between the first and second end portions;

a clamp mechanism structured for clamping the first end portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed arrangement, wherein the clamp mechanism further comprises an external collar and mating wedge structured with a plurality of partial reliefs formed therebetween, each of
15 the partial reliefs being structured for clamping the first end portion of one of the plurality of support rods; and

a shoe mechanism coupled to the second end portions of one of the plurality of support rods, the shoe mechanism being structured for receiving a mechanical fastener for permanently securing the respective second end portion in a fixed position relative to an external surface.

20 Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim [[10]] 9 wherein the plurality of unitary support rods further comprises three of the elongated permanently bendable support rods; and

wherein the clamp mechanism is further structured for clamping the first end portions of
25 the plurality of support rods in a fixed substantially triangular arrangement.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 9 wherein each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods further comprises a rod formed of a metal selected from the

Amdt. dated December 29, 2010

Reply to Office action of September 29, 2010

group of permanently bendable metals consisting of: steel, copper, permanently bendable copper alloys, aluminum, and permanently bendable aluminum alloys.

Claim 13 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 12 wherein each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods further comprises a cylindrical rod formed of a permanently bendable aluminum or aluminum alloy having a substantially constant diameter in the range of 1/4 inch to 1 inch.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The mounting bracket of claim 12 wherein ~~[[:]]~~ each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods further comprises a uniformly cylindrical rod ~~;~~ and ~~the clamp mechanism is further structured with a plurality of part cylindrical reliefs, each of the part cylindrical reliefs being structured for clamping the first end portion of one of the plurality of support rods.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~The mounting bracket of claim 14~~ A vehicle mounting bracket, comprising:

a plurality of unitary support rods each being limited to only a solitary nonextensible metal rod of single-piece construction having a substantially uniformly solid cross-section extended substantially continuously between a first end portion structured for being clamped, and an opposite second end portion structured for being secured relative to an external surface, each of the rods being independently permanently bendable in three orthogonal dimensions along substantially an entire length between the first and second end portions;

a clamp mechanism structured for clamping the first end portions of the plurality of support rods in a fixed arrangement, wherein the clamp mechanism further comprises an external collar and mating wedge structured with ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of part cylindrical reliefs formed therebetween, each of the part cylindrical reliefs being structured for clamping the first end portion of one of the plurality of support rods; and

a shoe mechanism coupled to the second end portions of one of the plurality of support rods, the shoe mechanism being structured for receiving a mechanical fastener for permanently securing the respective second end portion in a fixed position relative to an external surface.

Amdt. dated December 29, 2010

Reply to Office action of September 29, 2010

Claim 16 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 14 wherein each of the plurality of part cylindrical reliefs further comprises a pair of part cylindrical reliefs with complementary part cylindrical reliefs formed in an internal surface of the collar and an external surface of the wedge.

5 Claim 17 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 16, further comprising an elastically flexible sheath substantially covering each of the elongated permanently bendable support rods between the clamp and shoe mechanisms.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A vehicle mounting bracket, comprising:

a plurality of independently bendable non-telescoping support legs each of single-piece construction having a permanently fixed length and consisting of unitary metal rods having a
10 uniformly continuous solid and unbroken cross-section, each of the unitary metal rods having first and second lengthwise end portions at opposite ends thereof and being permanently bendable in each of three physical dimensions along substantially an entire length between the first and second lengthwise end portions;

a clamp for joining the support rods in a fixed arrangement, the clamp comprising:

15 an outer female collar forming therein a cavity having at intervals around an inside wall surface thereof a plurality of relief grooves that are sized for nesting of the first lengthwise end portion of one of the support rods, one of the plurality of relief grooves being formed for each of the plurality of support rods,

20 an inner male wedge having at intervals around an outside wall surface thereof a plurality of relief grooves that are sized for nesting of the lengthwise end portion of one of the support rods, one of the relief grooves being formed in a complementary configuration with a corresponding one of the relief grooves formed on the collar inside wall surface for forming a plurality of pairs of complementary relief grooves with one of the pairs being provided for each of the support rods, each of the plurality of pairs of complementary relief grooves partly enclosing a
25 lengthwise space that is smaller than the respective support rod end portion; and

means for urging the male wedge into the outer female collar with each of the support rod lengthwise end portions securely captured the lengthwise space partly enclosed by one of the pairs of complementary relief grooves.

Amdt. dated December 29, 2010

Reply to Office action of September 29, 2010

Claim 19 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 18, further comprising a shoe coupled to the second lengthwise end portion of one or more of the support rods, the shoe being structured with means for securing the respective second end portion relative to an external surface.

5 Claim 20 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 19 wherein the shoe further comprises one of:
a shoe structured for being permanently fixed to an external surface with a mechanical fastener,
and a shoe structured for resisting slipping relative to an external surface.

Claim 21 (cancelled)

10 Claim 22 (original): The mounting bracket of claim 18 wherein the collar further comprises a rigid mounting platform portion formed opposite from cavity having the plurality of relief grooves
formed therein.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 22 wherein the plurality of metal support rods further comprises a cylindrical support rod formed of a metal selected from the group of metals consisting of aluminum and permanently bendable aluminum alloys.

15 Claim 24 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 22 wherein the plurality of metal support rods further comprises a substantially cylindrical support rod with the first and second lengthwise end portions at opposite ends thereof being substantially cylindrical lengthwise end portions; and

20 wherein the plurality of relief grooves formed in one or both of the collar and wedge clamp portions further comprises part cylindrical relief grooves sized to nest the first lengthwise cylindrical support rod end portions therein.

Claim 25-26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): The mounting bracket of claim 9 wherein the plurality of unitary support rods further comprises three of the unitary support rods; and

25 wherein the nonextensible elongated length of a first one of the unitary support rods further comprises a first nonextensible length different from a second nonextensible length of a second one of the unitary support rods.